

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE
CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2006 IN THE CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS AT 1327 FOOTHILL BLVD., LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE, CALIFORNIA**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Portantino called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Stephen A. Del Guercio, Laura Olhasso, David A. Spence, Mayor Pro Tem Gregory C. Brown, and Mayor Anthony J. Portantino

Staff members present: City Manager Alexander, City Attorney Steres, Director of Public Works Castellanos, Director of Community Development Stanley, City Treasurer Voss, City Engineer Kwan, Public Safety Coordinator Stegner, Management Analyst Wilson, and City Clerk Sessman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by J. J. Marshall.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Portantino opened the public comment period.

Emery Fekety, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, inquired whether the lights on the proposed trail will be on a timer. He further inquired whether it was possible for Alta Canyada Road to connect into the Glendale sewers system.

Diane Lockheart, a member of Equestrian Trails, Inc., expressed her thanks and appreciation to the City and the City Council for their support for trails and for consideration of the “big picture.”

Daniel Mirisola, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, expressed his concern with the Sheriff's Departments handling of an attempted break-in on Jessen Drive, a couple of weeks prior. He expressed his desire to see their processes, specifically, fingerprinting and investigation services expedited and his disappointment with the overall response of the Sheriff's Department in connection to this incident.

Sameer Etman, a member of the Alta Dena Trails Committee, expressed his envy of the City of La Cañada Flintridge for being named Trail City USA. He expressed his support for the trails and his appreciation and thanks to the owners neighboring the trails.

King Davis, former Police Chief Sierra Madre and member of equestrian trails, expressed his support for keeping access trails open. As a member of the Equestrian Trails and the Rose bowl Riders, Mr. Davis offered to assist and work with the City to keep the trails open and well maintained.

John Kim, member of the La Cañada Jr. Trails Council, spoke in support of La Cañada Flintridge trails and offered his thanks to the City Council for their continued support. Mr. Kim provided a brief description of the La Canada Jr. Trials Council and explained that it is their mission to

increase the support of trails in the High School and younger generation so that we will be able to maintain the quality of our trails and the title of "Trail City USA."

Michele Zack expressed her thanks to the City Council for their support of the trails system and the essential role "connectivity" plays in future enjoyment of the trails.

Walter Bakley, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, stated he was disheartened to have received a Notice of Study regarding the proposed trail on Edison Property when no consideration had been given to the residents. He expressed his resentment that the City is looking at putting a trail behind his property, five feet above grade and his concern that the proposed trail will negatively affect his privacy and property. He requested that the City Council defend his rights and residence.

Deb Baumann expressed her support for comments made by Ms. Zack regarding connectivity. She explained that the trials system promotes healthy outdoor activity and community and offered her special thanks to the City and the City Council for their support and dedication to the trails.

Tama Lockwood expressed her support of trails and her desire to see the Edison right-of-way thoroughly used as a trail connector.

There was no one else wishing to speak, therefore Mayor Portantino CLOSED the public comment portion of the meeting.

REORDERING OF AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Portantino requested the reordering of the Agenda so that Agenda items # 4, #8, #9 and #10 would be discussed first. There were no objections.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of a proclamation recognizing Building Inspector Lucki Benson for her years of dedicated service to the City and community of La Cañada Flintridge will be presented at the March 20, 2006 City Council meeting.

Mayor Portantino requested Director Castellanos respond to concerns expressed by Mr. Fekety regarding the lights on the overpass. Director Castellanos explained that the overpass is a CalTrans run highway and because of this they will provide all requirements to the City. He further explained that generally CalTrans puts their lights on timers, on at dusk and off and dawn.

The Public Safety Update for the Sheriff Department was presented by Captain Peters.

In response to a request by Councilmember Spence, Captain Peters stated that the current public safety report from the Sheriff Department does not break down the residency of individuals arrested, but stated that this could be added to the report if the City Council desired. There was consensus from the City Council to add the requested breakdown to the monthly Public Safety report.

In response to comments made by Mr. Mirisola, Captain Peters provided a brief report on the February 13, 2006 attempted burglary of a residence on Jensen and arrest of two young men, one by the name of Dominic, which the Sheriff's Department was looking for in connection with other burglaries. He explained that on the day following the arrest, the detective based on the evidence was able to connect Dominic to a total of five residential burglaries in the area, one being in the City of La Cañada Flintridge. He stated that the Sheriff's Department is continuing their investigation and looking at connecting this individual to two other burglaries, but at this time no connection has been made.

Captain Peters responded to concern expressed regarding the Sheriff's Department's timely processing of finger prints. He provided a brief description of the process the Sheriff's Department uses and stated that a finger print request from the crime on Jensen was submitted to the Sheriff's Technical Services Bureau at 4:20 p.m. on the day of the incident. He further explained that taking prints is a highly specialized field that requires special training; it is for the purposes of continuity and expertise that the Sheriff's Department use technicians trained to lift prints, in a variety of ways from the Sheriff's Technical Services Bureau.

Captain Peters provided a brief overview of the services currently being provided by the Sheriff's Department. He stated that through the "Municipal Law Enforcement Services Agreement," the City contracts with the County Sheriff's Department provides for one general crime enforcement car and one traffic enforcement car, each shift and that would be three shifts a day. In addition Monday through Friday, or as scheduled the City has two additional officers a traffic accident investigator and a school resource deputy.

Mayor Portantino point out for the benefit of the community that deputies traveling between the Alta Dena and La Crescenta station are encouraged to take surface streets in order to increase law enforcement presence.

City Manager Alexander stated that in addition to the services mentioned by Captain Peters, the City also has a Community Services Officer which is currently vacant and being recruited for, a S.T.A.R. Program deputy and special patrols on an as need basis.

Mr. Mirisola stated that the incident he was commenting on occurred off of Los Amigos. In response Mayor Portantino requested that Captain Peters look into the Los Amigos incident and provide the City Manager with a report so that Mr. Mirisola could schedule a meeting with the City Manager to address his questions.

In response to an inquiry by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, Captain Peters explained that reported crimes are classified in three levels with the following response times: Emergent - 4.2 minutes, Priority - 8 to 9 minutes and Routine - 28 minutes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Approve the Agreement for Services between the City of La Cañada Flintridge and EIP Associates for Environmental Consultation Services; and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

Management Analyst Wilson presented the staff report and introduced John Stanza, EIP Associates, who is available to answer questions.

In response to an inquiry by Councilmember Olhasso, Management Analyst Wilson stated that the projected schedule for the public hearing and public review process will occur in late April, 2006.

In response to an inquiry by Councilmember Spence, John Stanza, EIP Associates, provided a brief background of EIP Associates project history.

In response to an inquiry by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, Mr. Stanza stated that EIP Associates will follow standard SEQUA California Environmental Quality Act Protocol which requires the lead agency, in this case the City, to notice affected individuals within 500 feet of project area. He explained that this will include circulation of the environmental document for the public to comment on, comments will be taken, if the City chooses we can schedule a public scoping meetings held to discuss document and receive public input; and all those comments will be brought into the environmental document for consideration at the time of approval.

In response to an inquiry by Councilmember Olhasso, Mr. Stanza explained that bid includes one meeting or four hours, so between this evenings meeting and the next one we might be able to squeeze in a "scoping meeting."

Mayor Portantino opened the public comment period.

Randy Strapazon, Trails Committee member, submitted a letter from the Zakerman's expressing their support and desire to see the trails expanded and maintained. In addition, she expressed her support of the trails and talked about the mentor program involving the La Canada Flintridge Jr. Trials Council.

Liz Blackwelder, a resident of La Canada Flintridge expressed her support for the La Canada Flintridge trails system and her desire to see the final loop put into place (Edison Property).

Lori Paul, a resident of Alta Dena and member of Alta Dena Trails committee, expressed her support for the trails and her desire to see it finished.

Edward Stork, a resident of La Canada Flintridge, expressed his support for trails, the environment study, Loop Phase II and his desire to see the La Canada Flintridge Trail finished.

Emily Stork, a resident of La Canada Flintridge, expressed her desire to see trial completed. She stated that she has grown up on the trails and that the trails benefit both individual families and the community at large.

Bev Huntsberger, expressed her support for comments made by supports of the trails and encourage the City Council to support continue their support and approve the proposed Trails Master Plan.

Marietta Kruells, a resident of La Canada Flintridge, expressed her support for the trails and her pride in having La Canada Flintridge named Trails City USA.

Diane Lockheart, representative of Equestrian Trails Incorporated, expressed her thanks to Mr. Bakley for raising his concerns regarding Loop Phase II, explaining that it will help the process and reassured him that EIP Associates and the City will work with you to address your concerns.

Doug Lournier, a resident of La Canada Flintridge, expressed his support for trails systems and his joy with seeing this project completed.

Jane Thompson, a resident of La Canada Flintridge, trail user and horse owner, expressed her support for the trails and stated that trails benefit the community, property owners, horse owners, hikers and runners.

Lorraine Schiffer, a resident of La Canada Flintridge, expressed her support of trails and encouraged the City to work with property owners to address any privacy issues that might arise.

Mick Schiffer, a resident of La Canada Flintridge, expressed his support for trails.

There was no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Portantino CLOSED the public comment section.

Councilmember Olhasso expressed her pride in the La Canada Flintridge trails and the trail system. In response to concerns expressed by local property owners, Councilmember Olhasso explained that the item before the City Council tonight is to approve the agreement for services between the City of La Cañada Flintridge and EIP Associates for an environmental study that will determine if and how the proposed project will impact the neighbors and property owner surrounding proposed trail.

Mayor Portantino provided a brief history of the trails and expressed the importance and value of the trails system and connectivity. He explained that the trails system has been a long time in coming and is essential to the value of life in our community.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, seconded by Councilmember Del Guercio, to approve the Agreement for Services between the City of La Cañada Flintridge and EIP Associates for Environmental Consultation Services; and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

9. Trails Master Plan

Management Analyst Wilson presented the staff report and introduced Mary Barrie, Trail Committee Chair who presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Trails Master Plan.

Mayor Portantino offered his thanks to Mary Barrie and the Trails Committee for their dedication and hard work.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown expressed his thanks to Mary Barrie for her leadership and dedication to this project.

Mayor Portantino OPENED the public comment period.

Michael Schiffer, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, expressed his support of the trails and expressed the benefit to the community

Randy Strapazon, Trails Committee Board Member expressed her thanks and gratitude to the City Council for their support of the trails and to city staff for their hard work and dedication to this project.

Cathleen Colber, Trails Councilmember, offered a special thanks to the City Council, Mary Barrie and Randy Strap for their support and dedication of the trails and requested that the City Council approve the Trails Master Plan.

Bobby Parity, a resident of La Canada Flintridge and horse owner, expressed her pride in this Trails Master Plan Committee and her support for the Loop Phase II project and completion of the trail. She offered a special thanks all those involved in this project.

Lorraine Schiffer, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, expressed her thanks to her parents and everyone involved in this project for there support and dedication to this project.

There was no one else from the public wishing to speak, therefore, Mayor Portantino CLOSED the public comment period.

Councilmember Del Guercio offered his thanks to everyone involved in bringing this project to fruition. He expressed his joy of seeing the trails project competed stating that “this project is generational and a benefit to the community.” He expressed his desire to see the City Council approve the Trails Master Plan and suggest that a legal disclaimer be included in Trails Master Plan to protect the City from liability.

Councilmember Spence expressed his support approving the Trails Master Plan and suggested that city staff and committee members stay in contact with one another in order to address any trails related issues or concerns that may arise.

In response to inquiry by Councilmember Olhasso, City Attorney Steres explained that upon approval of this plan by the City Council, city staff will immediately put into use the Trails Master Plan project review procedures.

Liz Blackwater, a resident of La Canada Flintridge, stated that the Trails Master Plan will be a living document and expressed her concern that the plan did not currently address the issue of hives and bees in and around the trials.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown expressed his honor to have been on the trails committee, involves the history of the community, unity of community, coming together of multiple communities; most important aspect of this is the map, created by visually show planning dept what parcels, are in and around a trail; He offered a special thanks to Management Analyst Wilson for putting the Trails Master Plan together. He expressed his support for comments made by fellow Councilmembers’ in regards seeing the plan put into use immediately and the inclusion of a disclaimer.

Mayor Portantino provided a brief history of the trails in the City of La Cañada Flintridge and the importance of trail preservation and looking at the bigger picture. He stated that the Trails Master Plan is a wonderful living document that will grow with and address the needs of the community. He offered a special thanks to everyone who had worked on this project and brought it to completion.

In response to an inquiry by Mayor Portantino, City Attorney Steres explained that the appropriate vehicle would be the City's General Plan, explaining that as a master plan for the City it is appropriate for it to be in the general plan; it is not applicable just to the R-1 Zone.

Mayor Portantino explained that in the Trails Master Plan, under the description of the conservancy trail and the description of the ultimate destination it makes reference to the use of Santa Monica Conservancy fifty-fifty match funds. He explained that these monies will fund three projects; the Conservancy Trail, the Ultimate Destination and Flint Canyon Trail. He requested a change be made to accurately reflect the nature of the grants, because these projects were fifty-fifty match.

Mayor Portantino presented certificates to the following Trails Committee members, outside agency staff and city staff for their contributions to the plan: Christine McLeod, Region Manager – Public Affairs, Edison; Ying Kwan, City Engineer; Mary Barrie, Committee Chair; Randy Strapazon, Trails Councilmember; Steve Castellanos, Director of Public Works; Gregory Brown, Committee Vice-Chair and Mayor Pro Tem; Robert Stanley, Director of Community Development; and Ann Wilson, Management Analyst. The remaining certificates will be mailed to recipients.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, seconded by Councilmember Olhasso, to adopt the City of La Cañada Flintridge Trails Master Plan with the inclusion of a disclaimer and the requested changes.” The motion carried unanimously.

10. Emergency Preparedness Community Awareness Program

The staff report was presented by David Stegner, Public Safety Coordinator.

Mayor Portantino OPENED the public comment period.

Dr. Richard Hinrichs, Ph.D, American Red Cross Liaison and Kathy Sproule, American Red Cross Volunteer, expressed their support for the proposed project and their desire to assist the city in this and similar projects.

Ed Barlow, response chair American Red Cross, support proposed project and support city's efforts to educate and prepare the community of La Canada Flintridge.

Nick Berkuta, retired Sheriff Deputy, commented on emergency response and community preparation.

There was no one else from the public wishing to speak, therefore, Mayor Portantino CLOSED the public comment period.

Councilmembers' expressed their support for program and its value to the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown offered his thanks to Councilmember Olhasso for suggesting this program and expressed the importance of educating and getting the community prepared. In addition, he provided a brief report on the continual spread of the Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and expressed his support for educating and getting both the City and the community prepared for this epidemic and potential quarantine.

Councilmember Olhasso expressed the importance of being prepared and educated. She expressed her support for this program and other similar programs that will help educate the community. She requested the assistances of the local newspapers to support this program and get word out to the community. In addition, she requested that the City use the School District as means to distribution information and updates. Mayor Portantino further suggested that city staff work with the local PTA to disseminate information.

A motion was made by Councilmember Del Guercio, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, to authorize staff to implement program.” The motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE

8. Introduction and first reading of an Ordinance adding Chapter 4.64 of the La Cañada Flintridge Municipal Code Pertaining to Trails

Management Analyst Wilson presented staff report and introduced Mary Barrie, Committee Chair who provided a brief outline of the proposed Ordinance.

Mayor Portantino OPENED the public comment period.

Rosemary Martinellie, a resident of La Canada Flintridge, expressed her support for the proposed Ordinance and encouraged the City Council to adopt it.

There was no one else from the public wishing to speak, therefore, Mayor Portantino CLOSED the public comment period.

Councilmember Spence expressed his support for the proposed Ordinance. He inquired how 4.64.030 Acts Prohibited A-6 would be handled and requested the inclusion of the verbiage “any type of gun on a City-Owned Trail,” under A-17. There were no objections.

In response to Councilmember Spence inquiry, City Manager explained that the penalty for violations of any of the provisions is currently a misdemeanor. He suggested that the City Council consider making some of these violations infractions rather than misdemeanors, explaining that if a penalty is so sever that law enforcement doesn’t want to enforce it, given the type of violation and on an infraction law enforcement can issue a citation at the time of the incident as apposed to having to prepare the background information, submit it to the district attorney for review before they prosecute.

Councilmember Del Guercio expressed some concern with 4.64.040 Penalty and violations of Section 4.64.030 being misdemeanors and inquired what the committees original intent was, as to “animal waste.” Management Analyst Wilson explained that “animal waste” was meant to address the issue of dog droppings on the trail. She suggest that under A-6 the word animal be removed and replaced with the word “dog” and read as follows: “No person shall place or allow to remain in place any litter or debris, including but not limited to ~~animal~~ dog waste and construction materials, generated directly or indirectly by that person’s use of such City Owned Trail.”

Councilmember Spence expressed concern with making this verbiage too specific and abused by disgruntled individuals. Following a brief discussion, Mayor Portantino stated that there seems to

be some substantive issues with this draft and suggested that the Ordinance be directed back to the City Attorney and staff for additional review and an . There were no objections.

Councilmember Olhasso requested that the Trails Committee determine how many and where additional dog drop boxes are needed along the trail.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Mayor Portantino recused himself from agenda item #7, due to a potential conflict of interest, as his home is located within 500 feet of the project area. Mayor Portantino stepped off the City Council dais and left the council chambers.

Motion by Councilmember Spence, seconded by Councilmember Del Guercio, to approve the following Consent Calendar items, with the requested changes to the October 17, 2005 Regular Meeting minutes and with Mayor Portantino's recusal from item #7 noted:

1. Approval of Minutes of the City Council:
 - (a) October 17, 2005 Regular Meeting
 - (b) February 21, 2006 Special Meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Brown requested that the following changes be made to the October 17, 2005 City Council Regular Meeting minutes: 1) Page 2 - First Paragraph following agenda item #17 title - requested first sentence to be corrected to read, "In response to an inquiry by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, Traffic Engineer Zandvliet assured the City Council that there would be no loss of parking spaces from the southbound off-ramp of the 210 Freeway to the Berkshire Bridge due to the requested modifications; 2) Page 7 – Fourth full paragraph - requested the word, "... area..." to be removed; and 3) Page 7 – Second to Last Paragraph - requested the verbiage, "... of the house,..." be added to the first sentence and "...yard eliminated and the..." added to the second sentence.

2. Approval of Warrant Resolution No. 06-04 dated March 6, 2006, for \$1,595,054.88.
3. Receive and file Commission Meeting Agendas:
 - (a) Planning Commission Action Agenda from the February 14, 2006 and February 28, 2006 Meetings.
 - (b) Public Works and Traffic Commission Action Agenda from the February 15, 2006 Meetings.
 - (c) Design Commission Action Agenda from the February 16, 2006 Meeting.
 - (d) Public Safety Commission Agenda from the February 22, 2006 Meeting.
 - (e) Youth Council Agenda from the February 22, 2006 Meeting.
5. Approve the proposed schedule for appointments to fill the expiring terms on City Commissions and Committees and submit available dates and times to the City Clerk for the conduct of applicant interviews.

Councilmember Olhasso stated that at tonight's meeting the City Council approved the schedule for appointment to fill the expiring terms on City Commissions and Committees. She stated that there are numerous opening and encouraged residents to apply.

6. Consideration of a RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE IN SUPPORT OF AB 2015 ENHANCING MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATION ON THE SCAQMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
7. Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute an Agreement with the La Cañada Unified School District extending the Memorial Park Lease Agreement.

Councilmember Del Guercio expressed his desire to see this project proceed with all possible haste.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

Councilmembers' reports on meetings attended at the expense of the local agency – None

Councilmembers' reports regarding regional and local representation –None

Councilmembers' reports regarding regional and local representation – None

Councilmembers' requests for future agenda items – None

Councilmembers' comments

Mayor Portantino announced that Councilmember Olhasso and Del Guercio will be going to Sacramento on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 to interview lobbyist to represent the interests of the City of La Cañada Flintridge.

In response to a request by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, City Manager Alexander provided a brief status update on the refinancing on Sewer District 3. City Manager Alexander explained that consultants are still in the process of reviewing the issue of when it would be appropriate to call the bonds that were issued for Sewer District 3 and will be coming back with an analysis and some hard recommendations. He further explained that given all that needs to take place before the City can call these bonds; it is their initial review that the City not call the bonds before September, 2006.

City Manager and/or staff comments

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Portantino adjourned the meeting at 10:16 p.m.

Kathleen R. Sessman
City Clerk

Minutes Approved by the City Council on April 3, 2006.